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## Letter dated 6 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a document entitled "Reaction of the Government of Burundi to the statement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the political and security situation in Burundi" (see document S/2001/634).

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Security Council for the efforts it is making to promote peace in Burundi and throughout the Great Lakes region, and to urge the Council to do everything possible to ensure that its resolution 1355 (2001) of 15 June 2001 on the Democratic Republic of the Congo is implemented, especially paragraphs 8, 11 and 12 which concern security between Burundi and its neighbours.

In this way, the Security Council will be acting in consistency with the conclusions and recommendations of its own report on its mission to the Great Lakes region from 15 to 26 May 2001, which gave new momentum to the search for regional peace. It will also be following up on the observations and conclusions in the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (S/2001/572), particularly those contained in paragraphs 105 and 106 which call on "regional Heads of State" to bring their influence to bear on the Burundian armed groups to encourage them to refrain from violence.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Reaction of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to the statement by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the political and security situation in Burundi

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has just issued to the international community a statement (see document S/2001/634) which suggests that the upsurge in violence in Burundi and Rwanda results from factors associated with internal problems of the countries concerned rather than infiltrations from Congolese territory of Interahamwe and ex-Forces Armées Rwandaises elements and Burundian rebels. Moreover, it is claimed in the same statement that an accusation is being made about the existence of such infiltrations which is completely baseless and the product of a genuine diversionary tactic.

2. Without wishing to engage in polemics with regard to a situation which is well known to the international community, the Republic of Burundi, for its part, wishes to make the following clarifications:

First: The Republic of Burundi is not at war with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has never had political, territorial, economic or other designs on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thus it has the status of observer and interested party in the context of the Lusaka Agreement.

Second: The Government of Burundi believes that it had encouraging contacts with the Congolese authorities at the end of 2000 and the beginning of 2001, particularly in Libreville. It intends to continue the bilateral contacts in order to settle all the pending issues of common concern in general and those relating to security on the common border in particular, especially at this time when the coalition of Rwandan and Burundian armed groups seems to be preparing massive attacks which are supposed to lead to a final military solution.

Third: The Government of Burundi categorically refutes the false allegations made in the afore-mentioned statement and wishes to rectify the facts, which are known to the international community through the Joint Military Commission, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the international organizations working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

1. Repeated attacks have been made in 2001 on Burundian trading ships in the southern part of Lake Tanganyika between Kazimia and the Pueto-Moliro region.

2. Congolese vessels transporting Burundian armed bands leave the ports of Moliro, travel up the lake and unload some people in the Ubwari peninsula, at Kazimia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while others travel towards Kigoma in the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. At the various meetings of the Joint Military Commission which took place in Lusaka in April and May 2001 and more particularly those concerning the

plan for the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement or repatriation (DDRRR) of all the hostile forces, the participants noted with surprise the discrepancy between the information on these forces provided by the humanitarian agencies working in the Congo, the rebel side and the Congolese side. Everything suggests that the Democratic Republic of the Congo wants to conceal the figures, even though they are needed by MONUC for the implementation of the DDRRR plan.

3. In the same context, the Congolese side has provided no information on the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD) even though they are inventoried in the Lusaka Agreement and everyone knows very well that the FDD headquarters is indeed located in Kasenga in the province of Katanga and that Jean Bosco Ndayikengurukiye and his men, estimated to number 4,500, are operating in this zone, from which they are receiving all the equipment needed for the war which they are waging against Burundi.

Similarly, since the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) command has complained in writing that the Rwandan and Burundian troops have attacked its positions at Rutuku, Mulembwe, Musipi and Mpala, all situated between Moba and Kalemie along Lake Tanganyika, the members of CMM and MONUC can attest that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is freely admitting to the existence of a front behind those which it calls aggressors. In reality, these positions are assembly points for the FDD armed groups and their supporters, from which they set out with arms and ammunition towards the United Republic of Tanzania or the Ubwari peninsula which serve as a rear base for the war against Burundi.

4. As to the pillage of the resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Government of Burundi demonstrated at the time that the accusations made against it were unfounded and that the report in question provided no convincing proof and also affirmed that it was not possible to continue to rely on gratuitous accusations as a basis for rejecting any course which might lead to a comprehensive solution to the security problems in Burundi in particular and in the subregion in general.

5. With regard to the peace process in Burundi, the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the 18 other negotiating parties would already have made significant progress by signing the Arusha peace agreement on 28 August 2000 had it not been for the destabilization manoeuvres and delaying tactics of those who place the logic of war ahead of the route of negotiations and dream of an illusory military victory. The Government of Burundi intends to continue all steps which could lead the armed groups to undertake negotiations and a cessation of violence in order to arrive at a ceasefire.

The Government of Burundi once again reaffirms its unflinching commitment to do everything possible to bring the inter-Burundian peace process to completion and to promote the implementation of the Arusha peace agreement.

The Government of Burundi would like to reaffirm its desire to cooperate with the Democratic Republic of the Congo so that the Lusaka and Arusha Agreements are appropriately harmonized and smoothly implemented in the overall interests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi in particular and of the Great Lakes region in general.

6. Lastly, in order to ensure that these kinds of suspicions and false and defamatory statements are brought to an end, the Government of the Republic of Burundi would like to propose once again that the international community should:

1. Urge the neighbouring countries to make a real effort to bring their influence to bear on the Burundian armed groups to encourage them to return to the negotiating table at Arusha and accept the logic of the Arusha Agreement which gives them an outlet for all their claims, and to abandon the path of violence which creates confusion and maintains a climate of mistrust between Burundi and its neighbours.

The Government of Burundi calls upon the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular to demobilize and disarm FDD in implementation of the DDRRR plan and the Lusaka Agreement.

2. In the context of the Lusaka Agreement, Burundi calls upon MONUC to monitor the entire length of Lake Tanganyika, now that it has been confirmed that the new war front has moved towards the shore areas of this lake.